



2019 GRANTS FOR THE ARTS GUIDELINES

City of Bloomington Arts Commission

The City of Bloomington recognizes that the arts are an important part of the culture and economy of the community, and that the City has a responsibility to foster an environment conducive to the community's participation in the arts. Artists and arts organizations contribute to the quality of life and the general welfare of the citizens of Bloomington.

The Bloomington Arts Commission (BAC) plans, develops, and implements the City's arts policies, articulated in the [2017-2019 BAC Strategic Plan](#) and the [Public Art Master Plan](#). Funds are made available for public art, grants, and other initiatives.

NEW: TWO FUNDING CATEGORIES

The Common Council has made available \$40,000 towards arts grants in 2019. The BAC will consider proposals in two categories: Arts Project Grants (available to both individual artists and nonprofit/arts organizations) and Operating Support (available only to nonprofit arts organizations that serve Bloomington). Nonprofit arts organizations can apply for either Project Support or Operating Support. Applicants can only apply to one category, and are encouraged to work with staff/BAC to determine the most appropriate category.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, April 5, 2019 at 5pm

Late applications will not be reviewed.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are submitted via an electronic online form. Prior to completing the application form, carefully read the instructions on the form. The application form and guidelines are available at [link here](#).

GRANTS SEMINARS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK

- February 20th from 5:30-7pm at Lotus Education Arts Foundation (105 S Rogers St, Bloomington, IN 47404)
- BAC Workshop: March 13th from 4-5pm at City Hall in the McCloskey Room.
- Office hours with BAC Commissioners - dates/times vary. To schedule, email Starowis@Bloomington.in.gov (first come first served basis).

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- [Indiana Arts Commission Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Bloomington Urban Enterprise Zone Arts Grants](#)
- [Region 8 Arts Partner, Brown County Funding Opportunities](#)

OPERATING SUPPORT GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY

- Nonprofit arts organizations based in Bloomington with 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS.
- Arts as the primary mission.
- An operating history of at least 3 full years prior to the application deadline.
- Majority of activity takes place in Bloomington, Indiana.

Please next page for continued guidelines.



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OPERATING PERIOD

Operating support is for FY20, and begins no earlier than July 1, 2019 and concludes by May 31, 2020.

MAXIMUM AWARD

Eligible organizations can apply for up to 5% of total operating budget (including in-kind operating expenses) for the most recently completed fiscal year. **The maximum amount an organization can apply for is \$5,000.**

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

A variety of revenue sources demonstrates good fiscal planning and community support. The BAC requires a minimum of a 1:1 match and encourages applicants to raise funds from the private sector (individuals, businesses, and foundations). *E.g. 1:1 match for a \$2,000 project includes \$1,000 request and \$1,000 in cash or in-kind (excluding labor) match support.*

FINAL REPORT & REQUIRED ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All grant recipients will be required to submit a Final Report to the BAC within sixty (60) days of project completion. Non-submittal of a final report in a timely manner may negatively impact future funding. If major changes occur from the original application (i.e. scope, location, budget or schedule), notification of such changes must be submitted in writing and approved by the BAC for funding to continue. Advocacy is important. Therefore, grantees are required to acknowledge receipt of public funds by using the Arts Commission's logo and credit line on project publications and/or public verbal acknowledgement where appropriate. Guidelines will be sent with grant award notification.

GRANT EVALUATION CRITERIA

Artistic Quality

- The overall level of artistic excellence achieved in the process of creation and/or in the artwork, performances etc.
- For prior grantees: The organization's proven ability to deliver artistic excellence.
- For new applicants: An indication of artistic excellence and a plan to achieve it.

Creativity and Innovation

- The overall creativity and innovation exhibited in the programming and overall mission of the organization.
- The extent to which the organization diversifies and enriches the local arts environment.

Community Impact & Engagement

- The extent to which the organization equitably and positively impacts public understanding, appreciation, or engagement with the arts.

(Community Impact & Engagement continued)

- The potential for the organization to address a particular community need.
- The extent to which the organization engages underserved populations.

Organizational Capacity

- The organizations demonstrated commitment and ability to make their programs and initiatives a success, including activities in marketing and audience development, diversity of funding sources, and the ability to define project outcomes.
- The organization demonstrates sound governance, financial oversight, and management practices.
- For prior grantees: The extent to which the applicant has demonstrated satisfactory adherence to final reporting and acknowledgment requirements in past applications.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed and scored by a committee of the BAC. Feedback will be provided on request.

QUESTIONS? Contact Assistant Director for the Economic and Sustainable Development of the Arts Sean Starowitz at starowis@bloomington.in.gov or the Bloomington Arts Commission at bac@bloomington.in.gov